Government of Saskatchewan

Annual Report

Saskatchewan Social Services

1984-85

Foreword

Annual Report 1984-85

This annual report summarizes the purpose and performance of the Department of Social Services during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1985.

A departmental annual report is required under *The Department of Social Services Act*, which states:

"The minister shall, in accordance with *The Tabling of Documents Act*, submit to the Lieutenant Governor in Council an annual report respecting the work performed by the department."

This report is divided into four basic sections:

- introductory and organizational information;
- services and programs;
- internal support services; and,
- fiscal addendum

Additional copies of this report are available from:

Saskatchewan Social Services
1920 Broad Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 3V6

Minister's Transmittal

June 28, 1985

Honourable Frederick W. Johnson
Lieutenant Governor of the Province of
Saskatchewan

May it Please Your Honour:

I hereby respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Department of Social Services for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1985.

Gordon E. Dirks
Minister of Social Services

Office of the Minister of Social Services
Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan

Deputy Minister's Transmittal

June 28, 1985

Honourable Gordon Dirks
Minister of Social Services
Regina, Saskatchewan

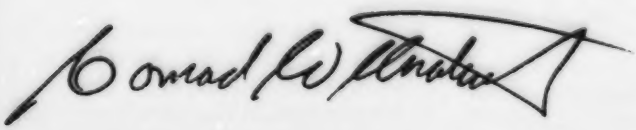
Sir:

I have the honour to present to you herewith the Annual Report for the Department of Social Services respecting the fiscal year ended March 31, 1985.

During the year, the department made great strides forward in adapting to change and becoming more responsive to the people we serve. Programs and services continued to be re-examined in respect of the independence, fundamental rights and human dignity of our clients. The department continues to facilitate community based initiatives with greater emphasis on preventive services.

The successful and responsible implementation of innovative programs is a tribute to all employees of the department. Their professional dedication to purpose and spirit of co-operation with the communities we serve promotes the well-being of Saskatchewan residents.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Deputy Minister of Social Services.



Conrad Hnatiuk

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Mandate

Mission

The mission of the Department of Social Services is to promote human growth and development and, thereby, the well-being of the people of Saskatchewan.

Mandate

Given the priorities of the Government of Saskatchewan and the special needs of the people of the province, the department responds to its mission through:

- providing financial assistance and related support services to persons who are unable to provide for themselves;
- providing for re-entry into the workplace for persons who are able to be independent of assistance;
- protecting children against abuse, neglect and abandonment;
- providing substitute care for children, youth and families;
- providing rehabilitative and developmental services and promoting independent living for persons who are physically or mentally disabled; and
- supporting community-based services and initiatives.

Performance

The department measures its success through gauging its ability to help people escape the dehumanizing cycle of dependency and to achieve as much self-reliance and independence as they are capable of attaining.

Adapting to Special Needs

Social services are essentially the means by which we respond to a number of the special needs of society through short-term income support, employment counselling and training, or any number of personal or family services. Young offenders and day care programs are also included within the Saskatchewan system, as is the coordination of programs throughout the government which meet the needs of senior citizens.

As social values and expectations change, so too must society's response to the needs of people. Our system must respond to changes in demand for service and to new issues and problems as these arise. Governments everywhere are feeling the effect of limited financial and other resources. This adds to the complexity of adequate response. Today's providers of social services are reconsidering their approach to helping people in terms of who needs what kind of assistance, when, and how much. Reconsideration is not new. It might, however, be more necessary today than at any other time.

Social services programs in this province have traditionally been marked by a preventive and rehabilitative focus. This tradition, complemented by the safety net of income support and other programs designed to meet more immediate needs, continues as a hallmark of social services systems in Canada. There is a special respect for fundamental human dignity and human potential within our system. People want to be independent and the system is dedicated to facilitating as much self-reliance as possible for each person or family.

The social services system in Saskatchewan has the remarkable ability to respond efficiently and effectively to the changing needs of people, despite a limited resource situation. Our system remains caring, competent and innovative largely because of the people involved, including thousands of volunteers and professionals. It is characterized by an ever-stronger partnership between the provincial government and hundreds of non-governmental organizations and agencies. The system actually served more people during the year than ever before. The government also managed to provide support for a number of new program initiatives in several Saskatchewan communities.

The year under review was marked by three major initiatives in the areas of family services and welfare.

The department initiated a program during the year to fund local social service agencies offering crisis services to women. Rural crisis centres in Kindersley, Melfort, Swift Current and Yorkton received operating funds to enable them to provide direct crisis services to victims of personal and family violence. A safe shelter in Yorkton and a safe house project in Melfort were established to provide crisis accommodation for battered women and children. The department also worked with others to develop an education system protocol for handling child abuse situations, to enhance liaison with prosecutors and to increase awareness of the problem of family violence.

There was a 28 per cent increase in funding for the many rehabilitation services offered throughout the province for persons who are mentally handicapped or physically disabled. Canada's first permanent, province-wide telewriter program for hearing impaired persons was established. The Early Childhood Intervention Program was expanded to include northern areas of Saskatchewan. As well, employment support programs for disabled persons were expanded and re-focused.

Adapting to Special Needs

Changes were made by the government in its approach to income support. The Saskatchewan Employment Development Program was established and created 2,160 jobs during the year for recipients of welfare. The Saskatchewan Skills Development Program was also implemented and provided education, retraining and job preparation experience for about 2,457 welfare clients of the department. Regional employment assessment and placement units were established. These measures dramatically changed the face of the income support system in the province.

There were a number of other significant occurrences during the year.

The government entered into an interim agreement with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations to develop Indian foster and adoptive homes for status Indian children in care, for whom the social services department was seeking adoptive homes. The department provided funds to the Federation for staff to work with Indian bands to develop related resources.

A respite program for foster parents of severely handicapped children continued to provide necessary leave for parents, with little reduction in payments.

One hundred eighty-five new day care spaces were developed during the year.

The department also had to respond with new responsibilities under the federal *Young Offenders Act* which presented many new challenges in the areas of youth services programming in the province. A province-wide alternative measures program was introduced. About one thousand young offenders are expected to be diverted from the court system to the alternative measures program next year. A $13 million capital development plan for young offenders custody facilities was announced; the Paul Dojack Youth Centre in Regina and Kilburn Hall in Saskatoon will be renovated and expanded, and a 40-bed secure custody facility in North Battleford will be established.

For senior citizens, an inter-departmental committee was formally established during the year to help coordinate the many government programs and services available to seniors. A directory of programs, services and special benefits for seniors was published and distributed to all seniors' households in the province. This directory was complemented by a telephone enquiry line established within the Saskatchewan Seniors' Bureau to help improve communication between seniors and the government.

Other examples of programming adjustments and new initiatives undertaken during 1984-85 are addressed throughout this annual report.

Service Co-ordination

The Department of Social Services administers eight major services:

Rehabilitation Services by means of institutions and by support of community-based residential and other services for persons who are mentally or physically disabled.

Child and Family Services which include the department's foster care, adoption and child protection programs.

Youth Services which involve serving youth generally and carrying out provincial responsibilities for young offenders, including institutional and regional services and the referral of youth to community-based programs and residential services.

NGO (Non-governmental Organizations) Services which involve the support of provincial or community-based social service programs.

Employment Support and Job Creation Services which include vocational rehabilitation and the creation of job opportunities, primarily for social assistance clients.

Income Security Programs which include welfare and income supplements for low-income families and senior citizens.

Day Care Program which includes licensing and some start-up support for day care operations throughout the province and the subsidization of low-income access to child care.

Seniors' Bureau which includes communication, program consultation and support for seniors' organizations.

The quality and efficiency of social services depend on teamwork and consultation. Many personal and family social problems are complex and a number of programs and services may be called for, depending on the circumstance.

All of the major program areas of the department provide direct or regional services, or support community-based services and programs for the public. Providers of social services must also frequently interact with other provincial or community-based health, educational, housing and transportation services and programs.

It would, in fact, be difficult to identify any single aspect of the government that does not, from time to time, become involved with the social services delivery system. Through inter-departmental consultation, the system will remain functionally relevant to the needs of the public.

During the year, the department emphasized communication and participated in various inter-departmental committees established by the government.

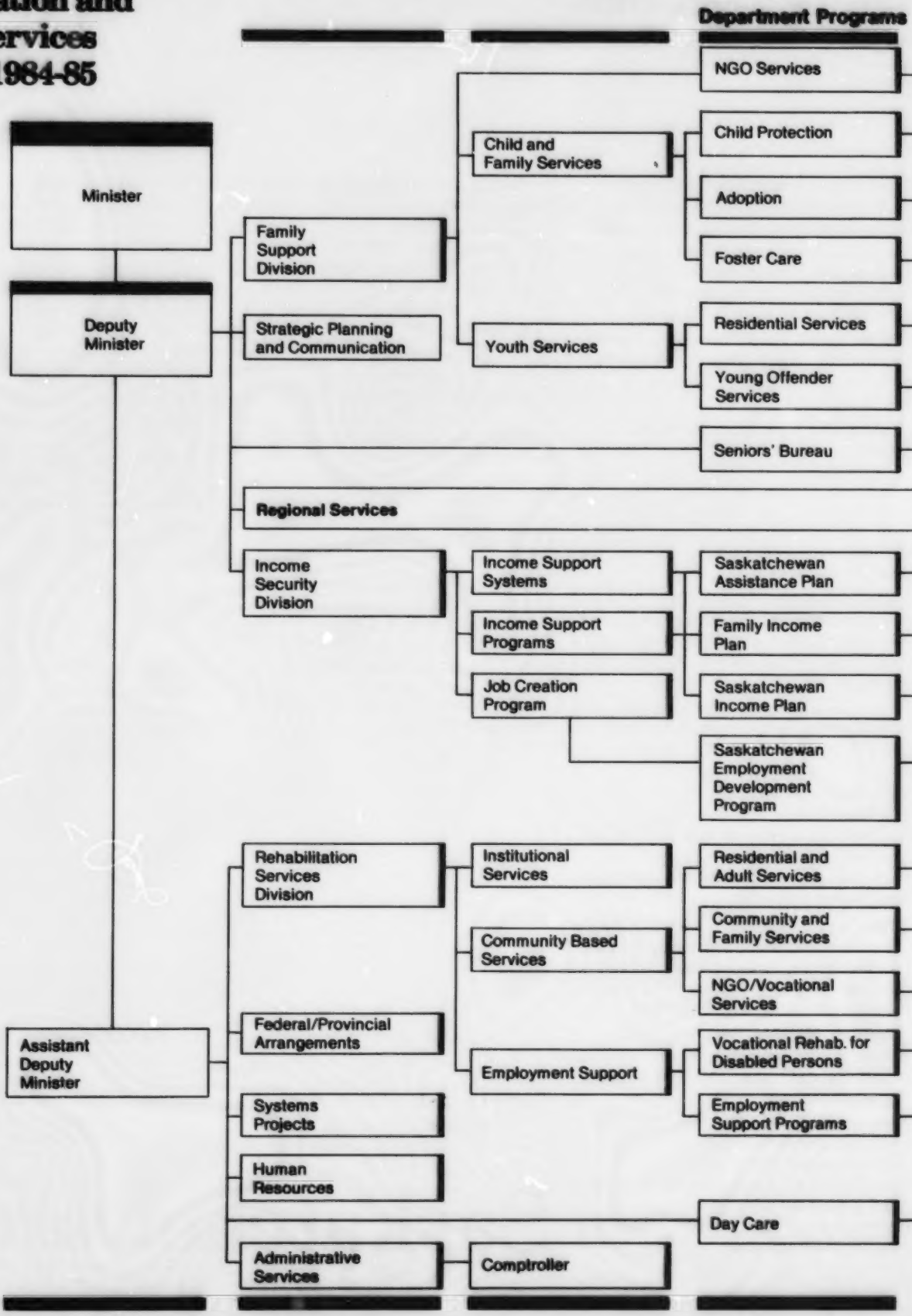
Improved communication between the department and non-government providers of social services was a priority.

The department realized the importance of communication with other jurisdictions. The exchange of ideas among provinces and countries during the year served the interests of all related organizations.

The accomplishments of the department would have been impossible without the combination of teamwork and individual dedication. Committees and project teams dealt with many administrative and programmatic problems during the year. Staff meetings and in-service training were common throughout the department.

Saskatchewan

Organization and Social Services System 1984-85



Central Department Services	Regional Department Services	Community Services (NGO's)
• funding	• consultation	• trusteeship, counselling and referral services • Big Sisters/Brothers • foster parents • crisis services/shelters • sexual assault centres • family support centres • native family worker projects • teen parent projects • group homes construction • local/provincial associations and coordinating agencies
• promotion	• teen parent counselling • child neglect investigation • special needs child adoption • infant adoption • step parent/private adoption • foster parent recruitment • special foster parent arrangements-transitional • parent support when children at risk	
• post adoption services • registration		
• association liaison		
• institutional services	• community placement	• juvenile diversion projects • family counselling services • youth centres • group homes operation • youth counselling services
• remand	• probation	
• program co-ordination • Seniors Outreach Service		• seniors activity centres • transportation projects
	• **district offices and sub-offices of districts form the three regions**	
• welfare	• applications • eligibility assessment • benefits assignment • counselling • control and audit • work preparation	• Unit Offices in Moose Jaw and Prince Albert deliver Saskatchewan Assistance Plan services within these two communities
• benefits for low-income families		
• supplements for low-income seniors		
• funding of job creation projects	• referral to vocational rehabilitation • referral to training	
	• referral to employment	
• funding	• service coordination and consultation • social work and support services • therapist services • consultation	• preventive research • group homes operation • early childhood intervention • sheltered workshops • activity centres • emergency care-respite services • supportive living • local/provincial associations
• applications • allowances		
• funding	• consultation	• transitional employment • subsidized industries • work preparation
• licensing • start-up funding	• consultation • low-income subsidies	• approved day care homes • day care centres

Regional Department Services

The department provided a variety of services at the local or regional level where they were accessible to persons needing them.

A previous restructuring of the department allowed for more decision-making at the regional level. As a result, services to clients were more flexible. The more direct program/service interface also helped improve the department's general responsiveness to local needs.

The structural adjustments improved the ability of central managers to function more as facilitators and consultants and to concentrate on the overall standards, relevance and efficiency of departmental services and programs. Similarly, regional managers were able to become involved in program and budget development. Co-ordination and efficiency improved between central program and regional services operations. The department's budget allocations more accurately reflected needs, resulting in more effective use of resources.

The following services were available to clients at the local level:

Rehabilitation Services

Services were available to those persons with physical or mental disabilities. These services were intended to help the adult or a child and its parents, adjust to a handicap, minimize as much as possible the effects of the handicapping conditions, and assist in making appropriate decisions about the handicapped person's educational, residential and lifestyle needs.

Twenty-four social workers, four community therapists and four supervisors provided regional department services, supporting the function of non-government agencies in the provision of services to disabled persons, and directly assisting with individual program design and implementation.

Child Protection Services

All reports of child neglect and abuse were investigated by child protection caseworkers at the regional level. If it was apparent that a child was in need of protection, the decision was made to provide counselling, referral services and in-home support services to the family to reduce risk to the child.

The department provided for the purchase of certain local services that would reduce risk to the child, protect the child from harm within the context of the family, and prevent the child from coming into care. These services included homemaking, parent aide, parent education or assessment, counselling or therapy, and transportation. By the end of the year under review, parent aide services were extended to most areas of the province.

In all cases, the safety of a child continued to be the paramount consideration.

Fostering Services

Children who were temporarily or permanently in the care of the Minister of Social Services were provided with a substitute family environment. Foster homes provided care for children who could function in a family environment. The department retained financial responsibility and legal guardianship, and foster parents provided day-to-day care. For children with special needs, such as children with physical or mental handicaps, teenagers, family groups, delinquent youths, difficult youths and emotionally disturbed children, the department also provided assessment services and short- and long-term care through other residential resources.

Child care workers provided counselling, referral and other services to both children and foster parents.

A great deal of emphasis was placed during the year on maintaining and recruiting additional foster homes, in view of the declining number of foster homes generally and the difficulty finding foster home care for teenaged youth.

Adoption Services

Mothers seeking to place children for adoption could ask for and receive assistance at district offices. A local worker would assist the mother (the father may also be involved) in completing the necessary documents.

Parents seeking to adopt a child could also apply at a district office. All applicants were assessed for placement of a child by an adoption home study, involving a series of interviews and meetings designed to prepare them for the role of parenting.

Single Parent Services

Single parents or parents-to-be were referred to the department's district offices by a variety of means, including self-referrals, family, hospitals, schools and doctors. District offices provided information, referral to other agencies, counselling and other pre- and post-natal support services.

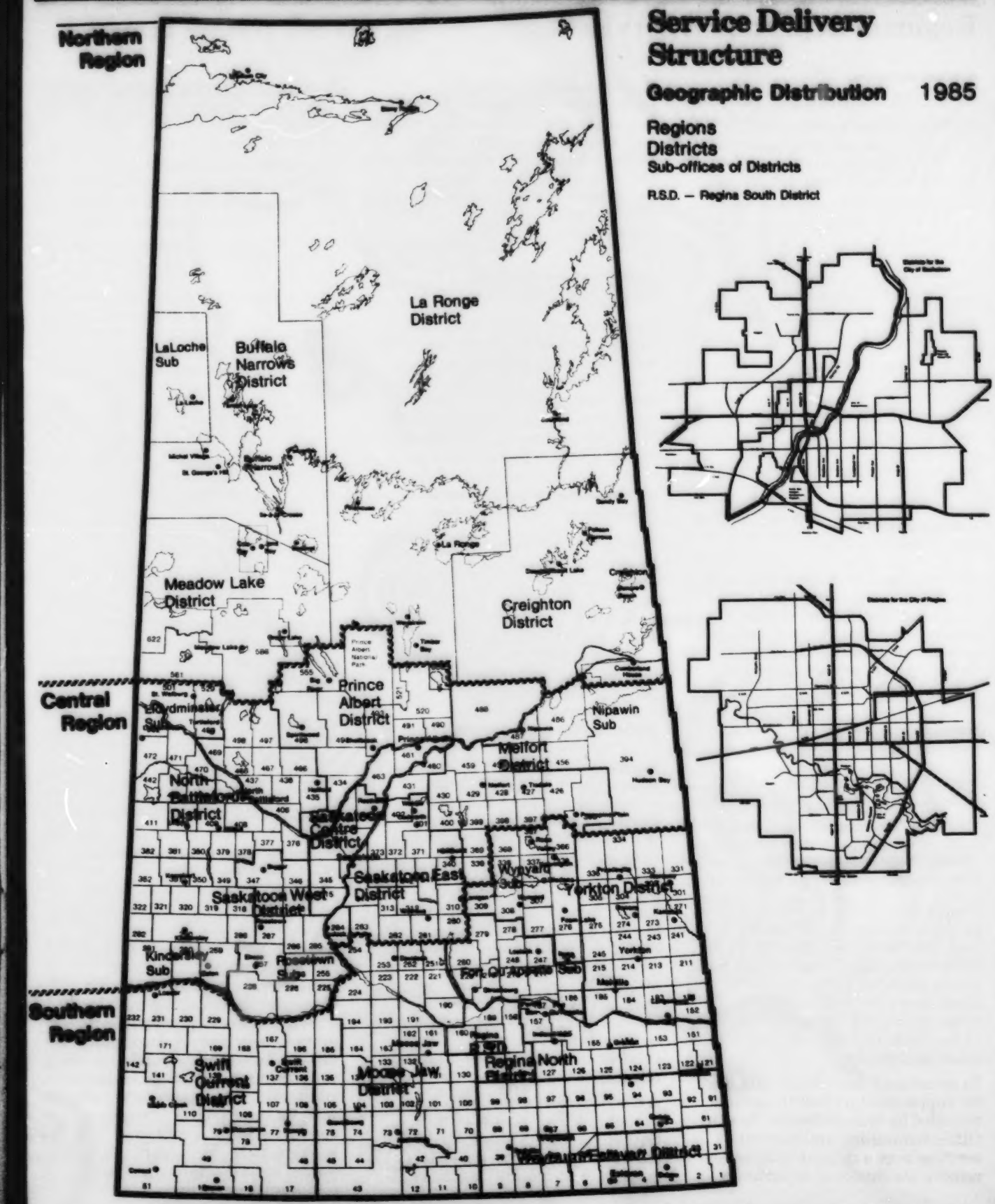
Support services included orientation to parenting. This consisted of weekly visits to teach parenting skills and infant stimulation techniques. Intensive counselling on education, employment and family relationships was also provided.

Service Delivery Structure

Geographic Distribution 1985

Regions
Districts
Sub-offices of Districts

R.S.D. – Regina South District



Regional Department Services

Youth Services

Services to youth were provided through a range of programs under *The Family Services Act* and the federal *Young Offenders Act.*

Services provided under the auspices of *The Family Services Act* were support services to parents and teens in conflict, protective services to youth in need of protection, support services to unmarried teen parents and extended educational services to young persons formerly wards of the Minister.

Services provided under the auspices of the federal *Young Offenders Act* included alternative measures, judicial interim release, probation services, community alternative services, and open and secure custody programs.

Day Care Services

Financial assistance was available through offices in Saskatoon and Regina to low-income parents of children in day care. Program consultation was also made available to family day care providers and day care centre operators.

Seniors' Services

Seniors could gain access to direct and indirect support services at the regional level.

Income Support Services

People who, for various reasons such as chronic disability, ill health or inability to secure employment, did not have enough funds to meet basic needs, could apply, under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan, for financial assistance to meet the cost of food, shelter, utilities, clothing and other necessities.

In some cases, individuals qualified for supplementary health services provided by Saskatchewan Health. Other counselling and referral services were available to lessen or remove the causes of dependency.

Regional staff had direct responsibility for determining eligibility and administering health and financial benefits to clients. Exceptions were in the cities of Moose Jaw and Prince Albert where these services were delivered by local social services units operated by these communities.

Employment Services

Regional staff enhanced income support with employment support services. People dependent on the department but who were able to work were offered specialized vocational or general training and job opportunities to help them gain or regain self-reliance.

Emergency Social Services

The district offices might have been called upon to respond to emergencies in the event of a large scale disaster affecting large numbers of people. Provisions under such circumstances might have included support for food, clothing, lodging or other personal social services. The department worked with emergency measures organizations in this regard.

Accomplishments

Parent aide programs were available in most regions of the province. In Regina, there has been a very rapid development of parent aide and preventive services within the NGO community. In the southern region, all districts now provide parent aide services. Parent aide services were formalized in the North Battleford district. A parent aide program was initiated by the Native Co-ordinating Council in Prince Albert, resulting in the avoidance of apprehension of children in 75 per cent of all cases referred to the program.

A district office sponsored a teen parent fair in co-operation with a Saskatoon library, drawing participation of more than 20 interested community agencies. A teen parent program was initiated in the Prince Albert district; two self-help groups served more than 30 clients.

The department placed more emphasis, through a number of district offices, on working jointly with native organizations in the provision of social services directly to native residents. In the Melfort district, meetings with the James Smith Reserve band council resulted in improved relationships and service contracts for family services and youth matters on the reserve. Various reserves in the Prince Albert district were closely co-operating with regional staff in resource information sharing, case management advice and the formulation of direction for children who remained on reserves. In the Buffalo Narrows district, ongoing attempts to hire locally and to encourage local people to further their education or compete for openings on the staff of the district office resulted in the filling of 60 per cent of the total staff complement by persons from the northern administration district. Efforts of district offices to ensure they remain sensitive to local issues and needs will continue.

A child sexual abuse protocol was developed by regional office staff and various community agencies. This will result in greater coordination of efforts and improved working relationships among all related agencies and professionals in dealing with child sexual abuse reporting and treatment.

Department staff participated in numerous training and information-sharing activities. They assisted in providing training and information to various organizations and professionals with an interest in social services. Staff worked closely during the year with community groups across the province, providing financial consultation and improving the coordination of services. In addition, the welfare reform package, with its emphasis on productive opportunities, was explained to social workers, to the Ombudsman's staff, appeal boards, trustees and other community agencies.

Child and Family Services

Services for Families and Children

The department is responsible for child protection, single parent services, adoption, foster care and youth services.

Child Protection Services

The department continued to be responsible for investigating all reports of child neglect and abuse and for taking the necessary steps to ensure the safety of children.

All reports of children in need of protection were recorded in a central Child Protection Registry. In the 1984 calendar year, 2,825 cases were opened for investigation. Of these, 833 were considered to be cases of neglect and abuse. The remainder of cases did not require ongoing service, were cases of parent/child conflict or behavioural management problems, or were referred elsewhere for service.

Early identification of families where neglect or abuse might have occurred remained critical to the success of the child protection program. However, much more emphasis was placed on prevention of crisis involving children. The goal has been to reduce the child's need for protection by assisting parents to deal with the problems contributing to or causing abuse or neglect or other risk to the child.

A number of in-home support services were made available to families in the hope that the child would not be in need of protection if in-home supports were provided. Funds for these services were available in all district offices during the year.

Services included homemaking, parent aide, parent education or lifeskills training, emergency babysitting, recreational fees, assessment, counselling or therapy, and the required transportation.

The department was also involved in voluntary child placement through provision for contractual agreements between the Minister and parents for the temporary care and custody of children. These temporary agreements were used in circumstances where a child's special needs were such that the parents could not provide immediate care. The child was temporarily placed in an approved foster home and parents were helped to resolve the difficulties which made the placement necessary. Parents were expected to contribute to the financial cost of caring for the child.

Foster Care Program

Under the department's foster home program, a substitute family environment was provided for children temporarily in the care of the Minister, or who were permanent wards.

Foster homes remained the primary means of caring for children who could function in a family environment. Foster parents were responsible for the day-to-day care of children, while the Minister remained the legal guardian and retained financial responsibility and authority over any long-term planning for them.

The role of foster parents in the lives of children in care was essential. Foster parents were regarded as colleagues of the department in providing a stable family situation for children requiring care.

Foster parents were often asked to provide family care to children with physical or mental handicaps, teenagers, family groups, delinquent or difficult youths and emotionally disturbed children. To help meet the needs of foster parents and children in these special situations, the department provided assessment services, short and long-term care, counselling and support.

One of the supports introduced during 1984-85 was up to three weeks of respite with minimal reduction in payment, for foster parents caring for physically or mentally handicapped children. This allowed foster parents to take a necessary break from the special demands of caring for handicapped children.

Foster parents also played an important role in facilitating the return of children to their natural families, a principal objective of the department. Foster families assisted children in dealing with being separated from their families and, while the natural parents worked toward resolution of problems that resulted in the children coming into the care of the Minister, the foster parents were frequently involved in visits between children and natural parents.

If it was not in the best interests of children to return to their natural families, they often became permanent wards and were placed for adoption. A significant number of children, however, remain in foster care until they become independent.

During the year in review there was a gradual decline in the number of children coming into care. At March 31, 1984, there were 2,274 in care compared to 2,207 children in care at March 31, 1985.

There were several reasons for this decrease. Increased in-home support services to families experiencing problems so that children could remain safely at home while problems were resolved was one reason. Greater efforts were also made to involve extended family members in providing alternative care during periods of family crisis. These approaches resulted in fewer children having to move into unfamiliar situations.

The department will continue the recruitment and maintenance of foster homes. Generally, two-thirds of the children in the care of the Minister are in foster homes. The number of foster homes declined. At March 31, 1985, there were 810 approved foster homes compared with 941 a year earlier.

Child and Family Services

Children in Care 1984-85

March 31, 1984	2,274
Admissions	1,492
Total	3,766
Discharged	1,124
Adjustment (due to retroactive data processing)	−435
March 31, 1985	2,207

Children in Care by Authority of The Family Services Act — March 31, 1985

Custody (disposition not yet decided)	515
Sections 8 and 9	327
Temporary Ward	258
Permanent Ward and Section 44	1,068
Out of Province Ward	39
Total	2,207

Definitions

Section 8 — voluntary agreement for care with parents.

Section 9 — agreement for care and supervision of sixteen or seventeen year olds.

Section 44 — continuance of care to persons eighteen to twenty-one years and previously in the Minister's care, where that care is necessary for education.

Out of Province Wards — children in care of another province but living in Saskatchewan.

Single Parent Services

The department provided information, referral, counselling and other pre-and post-natal support services to single parents. Assistance was given to mothers seeking to place children for adoption. Most frequently, only the mother was involved in such a decision, but the trend toward active involvement by fathers in planning for their children continued. In some cases, the mother's parents were involved as well.

For those mothers who decided to relinquish their children, social workers completed the required documentation and, if necessary, took the matter before court.

The number of infants adopted decreased from 155 in 1983-84 to 141 in 1984-85. In excess of 90 per cent of single mothers chose to keep their infants.

Taking this trend into consideration, the department had established two pilot teen parent projects in Saskatoon. During 1984-85 the Teen Parent Program was available in most areas of the province. Related services consisted of weekly visits to teach specific parenting skills and infant stimulation techniques as well as counselling on education, employment and family relationships.

Part of the expansion of teen parent services included a pilot project involving the Family Services agencies in Saskatoon, Moose Jaw and Regina. This project began at the 1983-84 year end and continued to provide volunteer support in partnership with the department.

The overall objectives of single parent services were:

- to quickly identify the young mother who requires increased services or whose infant might require protection;
- to promote normal growth and development in infants who might be at risk;
- to increase parenting skills and the knowledge and understanding of young mothers in areas of child care and development; and
- to assist in maintaining the young family unit and prevent children from coming into the eventual care of the Minister.

Adoption Program

Adoption remained a major responsibility of the department as did the plan of choice for children under the age of 12 whose ties to natural parents became severed and who had come into the Minister's care. The focus of this program continued to be to place each child in an adoption home best suited to the child's individual needs.

The department remained responsible for the recruitment, screening and selection of adoptive families. In all cases, adoption applicants were involved in a home study which included a series of interviews and meetings designed to assess the applicants and prepare them for the role of parenting an adopted child.

The department continued to be responsible for the provision of support services to adoptive families after placement of a child.

In 1984-85, a total of 186 children were placed for adoption.

Because there were more families waiting to adopt healthy Caucasian infants, the department had a provincial waiting list of 780 applicants at March 31, 1985. Home studies were in progress with 105 applicants and another 133 approved adoption homes were waiting for placement. During the year, 107 healthy Caucasian infants were placed for adoption.

Children with special needs because of age, handicaps, sibling groups, racial origin or other factors were placed for adoption through the REACH program.

The department had a waiting list for REACH. At March 31, 1985, there were 42 approved homes waiting for children, 89 home studies were under way, and 224 applications were on the waiting list.

Children Placed For Adoption by Age Group	
0 - 6 months	141
6 months - 5 years	22
6 - 12 years	23
Total	186

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Adoption Project

In April 1984, the department and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations entered into an interim agreement under which the Federation was funded to employ social work staff to develop foster and adoptive homes for status Indian children. The target group was children under the age of 12 for whom the department was seeking adoptive homes.

The objective was to develop adoptive and foster homes for these children, preferably with their extended families or other families identified by their home bands.

The initial agreement was for a six-month term, beginning March 31, 1985. The project was later extended for the entire fiscal year.

During the year, a total of 69 children were referred to the project. Of these children, agreement was reached to have 14 remain in their existing foster homes. Five were returned to natural parents. Three children were placed in homes developed by the project on home reserves. As of March 31, 1985, another 22 potential foster or adoptive homes were identified by the program.

The efforts made under this program appeared to have a positive impact in that bands began to identify resources for a number of children. Agreement to alternative long-term plans for a number of children also ensured that these children would be more secure in their placements.

A great deal of developmental work took place during the first six months of the year, accounting for the low number of children placed for adoption through the project. This number is expected to increase considerably.

Private and Step-Parent Adoption

According to Saskatchewan legislation, adoption placements may also be made by the natural parents of children. The department facilitates these adoptions by conducting home studies, presenting case histories to the courts, and preparing other documentation necessary for an adoption order to be granted.

Relatives often privately adopted children. The department also facilitated step-parent adoptions and assisted parents to prepare and submit materials for court purposes. Again, the department provided a history of the case for the court if requested.

The department facilitated the adoption of children from other countries, as well. It conducted home studies and was a liaison with the child's country via the federal government's adoption desk.

During 1984-85, 84 private adoptions were finalized and 160 applications were in process at year end. There were 341 step-parent adoptions finalized while active applications at year end totalled 290.

Post Adoption Intermediary Services

The department provided search and reunion services to adult adoptees and former wards with members of their birth family. These services were offered upon request of the adult adoptee or former ward, with a reunion occurring only on consent of the party being sought. Requests from members of the birth family were acted on only if there was a corresponding request from the adult adoptee or former ward.

Adult parties to adoption or wardship were, upon request, provided with non-identifying information about their background.

The program appeared to be well received by the people served and was important to adoptees and former wards who were researching their backgrounds. It was also important to many natural parents seeking to contact their children who were placed into care some years earlier.

Requests Registered in 1984-85	
Non-identifying Information Only	267
Search and Reunion	
... adult adoptees	231
... adult former wards	25
... birth parents	79
... birth family (other)	30
... adoptive parents	9

Cases Completed in 1984-85	
Reunion effected (21 were mutual requests)	134
Search successful but birth parent refused contact	29
Request withdrawn	67
Independent search successful	12
Birth parent deceased	14
Insufficient information to conduct a search	24

Youth Services

Youth Services

Services to young persons in Saskatchewan have traditionally been provided through the general service structure of the department. Services designated for youth were usually residentially based and were designed to meet the needs of those wards of the Minister requiring a controlled environment such as institutional or group home care. The needs of youth up to the age of sixteen years, and up to the age of eighteen years (if wards), were provided through the family services program delivery network. Other non-residential services for youth were provided in a non-differentiated way through the child care, protection, adoption and other family oriented programs.

The introduction of the federal *Young Offenders Act* in Saskatchewan had a watershed impact on the family services system as it pertains to youth. The most dramatic effect was emphasis placed on the development of services specifically oriented to the young offender as a result of the provisions and requirements embodied in the Act. This development had a spinoff effect on services to youth under the auspices of *The Family Services Act* in that certain programs were being developed as specifically youth oriented but retained the family context and orientation. A need was also being identified for the development of services to assist youth to achieve independence in a highly competitive and complex world. Wherever possible these services would be given within the context of the family as the primary support base for the young person.

Services Under The Family Services Act

The department continued to provide direct services in teen-parent conflict counselling, support services to unmarried teen parents, voluntary and protection services to young teens up to age sixteen years and voluntary care agreements for young persons sixteen and seventeen years of age where parents were unable or refused to assist or care for the youth. The department also assisted young persons, up to twenty-one years of age, who were wards of the Minister, to complete their education.

The department funded, by way of fee-for-service agreements and direct grants to the non-governmental sector, residential treatment services for youth such as group homes and specialized treatment resources. In addition, the department began to fund community support services such as drop in centres and tutoring projects.

Young Offenders Services

On April 2, 1984, the federal *Juvenile Delinquents Act* of 1908 was replaced by the *Young Offenders Act*. This new Act established that young persons who commit offences are to be held accountable and responsible for their actions and that society has the right to be afforded protection from dangerous offenders. The Act recognized young persons have rights and freedoms including those stated in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and in the Canadian Bill of Rights. The Act acknowledged that young persons have the right of the least possible interference with personal freedom, consistent with the protection of society. The *Young Offenders Act* also permitted young offenders to be dealt with by alternative measures to court proceedings as a means of being accountable. It recognized that parents are responsible for the care and supervision of their children. During 1984/85, the *Young Offenders Act* applied to youth who committed offences after their twelfth and before their sixteenth birth dates.

Alternative Measures

Alternative measures refers to program procedures whereby individuals who would otherwise proceed to trial were dealt with through community-based alternatives delivered by non-governmental organizations. This was a non-criminal procedure providing for the referral of offenders who were accused of committing certain categories of offences, to a specifically designated program prior to and in place of adjudication. While this was an alternative to court processing, it was a formal procedure, visible and publicly accountable whereby a voluntary settlement of an alleged offence was developed involving the victim and the community. Two juvenile alternative measures programs in Moose Jaw and Saskatoon operated under the *Young Offenders Act* during 1984/85.

Judicial Interim Release

The *Young Offenders Act* provided that a Youth Court Judge or Justice may release a young person during pre-adjudicated stages of a case to the supervision and care of a responsible adult rather than remanding the offender to custody. This is called Judicial Interim Release and it involved the identification and assessment of a responsible adult's ability to perform this function.

Youth workers throughout the province provided background assessments to the Court for the identification and assessment of individuals willing to act as responsible adults.

Probation Services

The duties of a youth worker under the Act included supervision of offenders bound by probation orders, preparation and presentation to Court of pre-disposition and progress reports, attendance in Court to provide information and advice, and such other duties as the Provincial Director required.

This was the major responsibility of the community programs component of the department and was provided to all courts and communities through the regional service delivery system.

Community Alternative Services

The Community Alternative Service Program was intended to be community-based and be a highly visible alternative to custody for short term, non-dangerous offenders. The program provided the Court with the alternative of sentencing an offender to a specific community program rather than to a period of custody or in lieu of probation. This program gave the victim of an offense an opportunity to participate in the proceedings to the extent desirable, with a view to recovering where possible an appropriate compensation for illegal actions against a person or property. The program provided compensation to society as a whole where there was no identifiable victim. The Community Alternative Services Program consisted of: Community Service Orders, Personal Services Orders, and Compensation (Restitution Orders).

Open Custody

Open custody was defined in the *Young Offenders Act* as "a community residential centre, group home, child care institution, a forest or wilderness camp or any other like place or facility". This program required young people to live in a supervised "away from home" environment (the custody component) but also to be involved in regular school programs, in community recreation programs and in regular employment (the open component).

Open custody was provided through Dales House and Kilburn Hall (child care institutions), the Alex Bishop Child Care Centre at Green Lake and the Ranch Ehrlo Society in Regina (group homes), and the Roy Wilson Centre at Sedley (treatment cottage) during the year under review.

Secure Custody

Under the terms of the *Young Offenders Act*, secure custody means "custody in a place or facility designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council of a province for the secure containment or restraint of young persons".

During the year, Saskatchewan Boys Centre in Regina (renamed the Paul Dojack Youth Centre in 1985) and Kilburn Hall in Saskatoon provided secure custody services. These facilities, along with Dales House in Regina (two spaces) were also designated as places of temporary detention. As such, these provided a secure setting for youth between the time of arrest and sentencing.

The department provided assistance to parents and parent boards wishing to establish local day care services. It offered start-up grants for day care centres and family day care homes, annual equipment grants, and special supervision and equipment grant services for centres providing care to children with special needs. Consultation and support services were available for parents and those providing day care.

The department monitored and approved family day care homes run by private individuals in their own residences. During the year under review, 370 such homes accommodated over 1,700 children.

Day care centres provided care to children between 18 months and 12 years of age. As of March 31, 1985, there were 3,635 day care spaces in centres across the province — an increase of 185 spaces over the previous year, essentially resulting from the opening of five new day care centres.

In order to offset the cost of fees for day care services, the department provided an income-tested subsidy of up to $235 per month, per child, to assist parents who met eligibility requirements.

During 1984-85, the department funded a training program for approved home operators.

Saskatchewan

Non-Governmental Social Services

Consistent with its mandate to provide a broad range of social services to the people of Saskatchewan, the department worked closely with many non-governmental organizations and service providers.

The department provided grants during the year to these community-based social services organizations responsible for providing services to children, youth and their families.

In all cases, funding decisions were consistent with the department's program objectives. Funding took the form of a grant, fee-for-service or subsidy for operations. The department monitored funded agencies to ensure that the terms and conditions of funding were met. It consulted on finance and service delivery practices for those agencies receiving funds.

Both the department and the communities recognized that delivery of social services was a partnership for the benefit of persons who required social services.

Crisis Intervention Services

After hours crisis intervention services were provided by the Mobile Crisis Services of Regina, the Saskatoon Crisis Intervention Service, and the Prince Albert Mobile Crisis Unit Co-operative.

Sexual assault services were provided by the Saskatoon Sexual Assault and Information Centre, the Battlefords and Area Rape Crisis Centre, the Regina Women's Community Centre and Sexual Assault Line, and a sexual assault worker with the Prince Albert Mobile Crisis Unit Co-operative.

Services for the victims of personal and family violence were provided by the West Central Sexual Assault and Information Centre in Kindersley and the North East Crisis Intervention Centre in Melfort.

Transition house services were provided by the Regina Transition Women's Society, the Regina Native Women's Association Residential Resource Centre, the Saskatoon Interval House, the Moose Jaw Women's Transition Association, the Association of West Central Native Women in Prince Albert and the Battlefords Interval House.

Short-term crisis accommodation for battered women and children were provided by a safe shelter in Yorkton, operated by the Yorkton Women in Need organization, and a safe house project in Melfort, sponsored by the North East Crisis Intervention Centre.

Trusteeship Services

Trusteeship services were provided by the Welfare Rights Centre in Regina, the Saskatoon Self-Help Council, the Prince Albert and District Community Service Centre Family Finance Counselling Program and the Moose Jaw Community Action Society.

Counselling and Family Supports

These services were provided by a number of native family service organizations including the Metis Society of Saskatoon, the Regina Native Women's Association Community Centre, the Lestock Women's Centre, the Native Co-ordinating Council Family Services in Prince Albert, Buffalo Narrows Native Women, the Dene Kwan Self-Help Council and Housing Corporation (Family Support Centre) in La Loche, the La Ronge Native Women's Organization Family Crisis Centre, Fort Qu'Appelle Ka-pa-chee Centre (Parent Aide), and Riel Local Incorporated (Parent Aide) in Regina.

Family support was also provided by native friendship centres in Yorkton, Meadow Lake, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Uranium City, the Battlefords, Saskatoon, Regina, La Ronge and Carlyle.

Counselling and family services were provided by the Family Service Bureaux in Saskatoon and Regina, the Catholic Family Service Society in Regina and Catholic Family Services of Saskatoon, and the Minto Family Life Education Centre in Moose Jaw.

Other counselling services were offered by the Cornwall Street Tutoring Project and the SCEP Centre Society of Regina, the Saskatoon Society for the Protection of Children, the Humboldt District No. 44 Home Care Program (Family Counselling Program), the Maple Creek Community Centre Society, the Merici Centre in Regina, Christian Counselling Services in Saskatoon and the Regina Christian Counselling Centre.

Other Services

Preventive services were provided by the Big Sisters and Big Brothers associations in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert and North Battleford.

Mediation/diversion services for youth were provided by the John Howard Society organizations in Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Moose Jaw.

Local and Provincial Coordination

Local coordination organizations included the Society for the Involvement of Good Neighbours in Yorkton and the SMILE Services group in Estevan.

Provincial coordinating organizations included the Saskatchewan Association of Non-government Social Services Agencies and the Saskatchewan Foster Parents Association.

Rehabilitation Services

Other Services

The department supported certain employment programs, day-care start-up and seniors' activity centres and specialized transportation projects. These services are discussed elsewhere in this report.

The department also funded and worked closely with non-governmental agencies which provided services and programs for the benefit of the handicapped. These services are described in the following Rehabilitation Services section of this report.

The department remained responsible for providing comprehensive and coordinated services to persons who were physically disabled or mentally handicapped to ensure that their physical, emotional and social needs were met and to assist them to live and function as independently as possible within their own communities.

Services to handicapped persons were provided through a number of direct services, and through funded non-governmental organizations or on a fee-for-service basis.

Community Social Work and Family Support and Therapist Services

There were social workers, community therapists and supervisors in four regions, extending services to disabled persons and their families at Prince Albert, Melfort, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Rosetown, Regina, Weyburn, Estevan, Yorkton, Swift Current and Moose Jaw.

Family support services were designed to help parents and their children in the initial adjustment to the realities of a handicap; to diminish or eliminate obstacles to normal family functioning which might be caused by a handicap; to assist families and the community service system in establishing a developmental model at a very early stage as opposed to a corrective model at normal school-entry age; and, to assist families and the family member with a handicap in making appropriate planning decisions about education, residential and life-style issues at appropriate times during development.

The social work and community therapy programs provided case management, individual program planning, staff training and general consultation services.

Institutional Services

A main objective of the department was to allow handicapped persons to live as independently as possible through the supports and aids they required. The department did, however, provide institutional care for some mentally retarded persons who required continuing supervisory and medical and nursing care, and who could not be maintained in their communities at the time.

Valley View Centre in Moose Jaw provided institutional services to 675 mentally retarded persons. North Park Centre in Prince Albert provided services to 185 persons. Most of the clients in this latter facility had histories of long-term institutional care and required level 2, 3 or 4 care.

Both centres provided training programs to enhance the levels of functioning by residents and to improve their quality of life, enabling them to live in the least possible restrictive environment.

Small Hospital Program

The Small Hospital Program was funded by the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan and was jointly administered by the department. Persons requiring 24-hour a day skilled nursing care and medical direction and who had parents or guardians within the area willing to maintain a family relationship, were accommodated in 21 hospitals throughout the province. As of March 31, 1985, there were 27 children and 15 adults involved in the Small Hospital Program.

Early Childhood Intervention Services

The Early Childhood Intervention Program is a home-based program that provided training and support to parents of children from birth to five

years having developmental disabilities. This program, supplemented by regular home visits by trained staff, helped families and prevented children from coming into institutional care.

The program was primarily supported by the department but was supplemented by local funding. It was administered by non-profit, mainly parent-controlled community boards.

During the 1984-85 fiscal year, a new program project was started at La Ronge, adding 15 new spaces to the provincial system. The South-Central Early Childhood Intervention Program serving Moose Jaw and Assiniboia received additional funding, increasing the number of children being served by eight and resulting in a total provincial capacity of 307 spaces.

Early childhood intervention services were available in Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Yorkton, Lloydminster, Tisdale, Melfort, Regina, North Battleford, Kerrobert-Kindersley, Swift Current, Redvers, Estevan, Meadow Lake, Weyburn, Moose Jaw-Assiniboia and La Ronge.

Activity Centres

Activity centres provided adult day vocational programs for individuals being mentally retarded, with limited motor and sensory development. Programming stressed basic living skills, socialization and recreation. The goal continued to be for the individual to develop sufficient social competence to function in a community setting.

Sheltered Workshops

Sheltered workshops provided specialized employment opportunities for adult clients with fair motor development or minimal sensory limitations. Training and production remained the components of this program. People develop work and social skills until they are able either to reach their potential level of independence or to obtain competitive employment. A portion of profit gained by workshops is returned to clients.

During the 1984-85 fiscal year, a total of 1,646 spaces in 37 sheltered workshops and activity centres in 27 communities across the province received department funding.

Sheltered workshops were cost-shared with the federal government through the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Agreement and activity centres were cost-shared with the federal government under the Canada Assistance Plan.

New sheltered workshops were approved during the year for Outlook, Langenburg, and Porcupine Plain. The Cosmopolitan Activity Centre in Saskatoon received provincial assistance to relocate to a new building. Weyburn received assistance to build an addition to its sheltered workshop. Moose Jaw Diversified Services Inc. received assistance to recapitalize its old workshop and activity centre into a new building. New spaces were also added to existing programs at Rosthern, Saskatoon and Melfort.

Sheltered Industries

Sheltered industries provided employment in a controlled environment for people with fair motor development and limited sensory impairment. Normal employer/employee relationships and industrial practices were in place, but a social support system not available in competitive industry was part of the program.

Residential Services for Disabled Children and Adults

The primary objective in the provision of residential services for men and women with mental retardation remained to develop a broad spectrum of options promoting the degree of self-reliance possible in each case. A variety of residential programs existed including group homes, training homes, approved homes and supportive living programs.

Group homes continued to be operated by non-profit community boards. Each had 24-hour supervision. The department licensed group homes.

During 1984-85, 326 mentally retarded adults lived in 48 group homes located in 23 communities throughout the province. New group homes were opened in Outlook, Redvers and Nipawin. As well, additional funds were made available to group homes in a number of communities so that these could provide service to a more handicapped clientele.

Forty children with mental disabilities were accommmodated in six group homes. The department also funded six group homes for physically disabled men and women; a total of 50 persons were served.

Twenty-four adults lived in three Moose Jaw training homes and program staff provided life-skills training to prepare residents for living within the community.

Private approved homes provided the degree of care appropriate to meet individual client needs. During the year, 191 projects accommodated 410 persons.

Children were also placed in foster homes when their families were unable to maintain them in the parental home or where there was a need to facilitate educational placement outside a child's home community. There were 70 children in foster homes as of March 31, 1985.

The Supportive Living Program provided the necessary support services to enable moderately retarded adults to reside in their own apartments. New projects were started in Melfort and Rosthern. With this expansion, a total of 106 persons received service in 15 Saskatchewan communities.

Respite Services

The department funded a holiday relief program for approved home operators, enabling them to arrange for relief staff. Respite services were also available to families with children and adults who were mentally retarded. These provided families with a break from constant care responsibilities, preventing the child or adult from coming into care.

Respite services were provided by resource homes operated by community boards in Saskatoon and Regina. Families who did not have access to resource homes in Saskatoon and Regina could gain access to respite services through the Outreach Program.

The demand for respite services by the end of 1984-85 increased to 8,108 days of service from 6,371 in 1983-84.

Accomplishments

Throughout the year, considerable effort was directed toward development of program standards for all areas of service. Activity took place in consultation with community services so that implementation of the standards might begin during the 1985-86 fiscal year.

Significant review of programs in relation to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms occurred during the year. Policies were reviewed and, where necessary, amended. Staff received training to ensure awareness and sensitivity to the rights of individuals.

A pilot project for wards of the Minister who are disabled was implemented in the Regina region. The case management responsibility for 44 children with physical and mental handicaps was assumed by the department. This project will be evaluated.

Project Breakthrough, a one-year employment demonstration project, facilitated the placement of persons with physical disabilities into the existing job market, in cooperation with relevant non-governmental organizations.

The Employment Support Program was reviewed and improved during the year.

A formal review of the service delivery system at Valley View Centre was undertaken. A 15-member board of review was established and provided a report which formed the basis of an action plan for the coming year.

Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons

This program administered the federal/provincial Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Agreement, providing for the equal sharing of approved expenditures made on behalf of mentally or physically disabled persons.

Under this Agreement, the province undertook to provide a comprehensive vocational rehabilitation program which might have included assessment, counselling, restoration, vocational training and employment placement for eligible persons. Program coordination, consultation and staff development were available for rehabilitation agencies and vocational counsellors.

This program depended on co-operative involvement of the Departments of Social Services, Advanced Education and Manpower, Education and Health, and the Saskatchewan Alcoholism Commission and 16 community referral agencies that represent target groups and have specific expertise in determining and meeting their clients' needs.

Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons

Total number of applications approved	725
Supplement applications (not included in above)	65
Applications not approved	11

Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons

Breakdown of Services	
Education	248
Employment Preparation Programs	79
Life Skills	98
Adjustment to Blindness	16
Tutoring	51
Training-on-the-Job	33
Driver Education	15
Assessments	191
Tools and Equipment	5
Mobility/Communication Equipment	5
Independent Living	13
Work Experience	7
Special Transportation	1
Medical Restoration	3
Interpreter Service	20

Rehabilitation Services

Employment Support

The Employment Support Program provided funding to a number of agencies offering a range of services for mentally and physically disabled and socially disadvantaged individuals who were eligible for benefits under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan. These services included counselling and placement in subsidized industry and transitional employment situations.

Twenty-three projects were funded under the Employment Support Program during 1984-85. These included: nine placement projects offering eligible clients employment in the private, public and non-governmental sectors in both urban and smaller centres; subsidization of individual positions within nine existing non-profit industries and businesses which provide long-term employment alternatives for individuals unable to compete in the regular job market place; and, transitional employment projects with five existing organizations offering individuals a chance to develop job skills and work histories and thus proceed into the regular work place.

Work Preparation/Placement Projects	
Referrals	2,381
Cases Established	1,274
ESP Subsidized Employment Placements	347
Non Subsidized Employment Placements	509
Subsidized Industries	
Funded Positions	44
Individuals Employed	104
Transitional Employment	
Funded Positions	29
Individuals Employed	114
Total Program Performance	
Jobs Created (with and without subsidy)	1,074
Jobs Created (subsidized only)	565

Income Security and Employment Development

The department administered a number of programs during the year which provided income support to individuals and families who for various reasons including unemployment, disability, ill health or low income could not meet basic needs.

The department also either administered or was directly involved with a number of employment related programs as part of the government's overall efforts to develop employment in the province.

The Saskatchewan Assistance Plan

This continued to be the province's basic income support program. It was cost-shared with the federal government under the Canada Assistance Plan. The department provided funds under the plan to meet the cost of food, shelter, utilities, clothing and supplementary health services for individuals and families who, for various reasons, did not have enough funds to meet basic needs.

Residents in need could apply for and receive benefits, as well as related information on client rights and responsibilities, at any of the department's district offices, or through the local unit offices in Moose Jaw and Prince Albert.

Saskatchewan Assistance Plan Financial Cases by Employment Status March 1985

Employment Status	March 1985 Cases*	Percentage of Total
Employed	4,410	14.0
Unemployed		
Fully Employable	11,705	37.1
Partially Employable	3,697	11.7
Undergoing Training	2,294	7.3
Unemployable (includes persons who are temporarily or permanently unemployable)	9,466	30.0
TOTAL	31,572	100.0

* No comparison is made with March 1984 because extensive administrative changes make valid comparisons impossible.

Saskatchewan Assistance Plan Expenditures by Source 1984-85

		Percentage of Total
Municipal Governments	$ 1,915,812	1
Federal Government	92,166,835	49
Provincial Government	93,802,890	50
TOTAL	$187,885,537	100%

Sample Saskatchewan Assistance Plan Payment March 1985

Single parent (temporarily unemployable) with two children, renting a house

Basic Allowance (for food, clothing, personal and household needs)	$472.00
Rent (provincial average)	323.00
Utilities (electricity, telephone, and heat)	55.00
TOTAL budget need	$850.00
Less income:	
Family Allowance (2 x 31.27)	62.54
Monthly entitlement	$787.46
Less:	
Family Income Plan payment (2 x $100)	200.00
Saskatchewan Assistance Plan payment	$587.46

Accomplishments

The department undertook major reform of the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan in 1984-85. Accomplishments included:

- the initiation of the Employment Development Program to create employment for welfare clients;
- the initiation of the Skills Development Program to create training opportunities for welfare clients;
- the establishment of assessment and placement units in Social Services offices to help assess client needs and capabilities and then place them in training situations and jobs;
- the redistribution of benefits from clients with relatively low or short-term needs to those with high or long-term needs; and
- improvements to data management systems and general administration.

As a result of this reform, the Saskatchewan income support system was well-equipped to face present circumstances and future challenges. For those who were able to work, the increased flexibility of the system offered clients more productive opportunities to regain self-reliance. For those who could not become totally independent of support for reasons of age, health or family responsibilities, there was strengthened support through the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan, the Family Income Plan and the Saskatchewan Income Plan.

The Saskatchewan Employment Development Program

The department implemented the Saskatchewan Employment Development Program during the year, as part of the provincial welfare reform initiative. It became part of the government's overall job creation strategy.

This program was a means of providing productive training and employment opportunities for persons who were receiving benefits under the Saskatchewan Assistance

Sample Saskatchewan Assistance Plan Payment March 1985

Married couple (part-time employed) with three children, renting a house

Basic Allowance (for food, clothing, personal and household needs)	$757.00
Rent (provincial average)	339.00
Utilities (electricity, telephone and heat)	55.00
TOTAL budget need	$1,151,00
Less income:	
Family Allowance (3 x $31.27)	93.81
Employment Income = $400.00	
Exemption (25% of need) = $287.75	
Earned Income deducted	112.25
Monthly entitlement	$944.94
Less:	
Family Income Plan payment (3 x $100)	300.00
Saskatchewan Assistance Plan payment	$644.94

Plan and to provide them with work experience and job-related skills that would facilitate their continuing participation in the labour market.

To accomplish the objectives of the program, Saskatchewan businesses, local government bodies and non-profit organizations approved under the program were eligible for subsidies equal to the provincial minimum wage and related employee benefits for each new position created. Local-government bodies and non-profit organizations were also eligible for some essential overhead expenses.

To qualify for program funding, employers had to demonstrate that the jobs would not displace existing jobs that would have existed without program support, that they provided meaningful work experience and job-related skills to the employees and took existing employees' skills into consideration, that they would provide between 20-26 weeks of full-time continuous employment, and that the jobs would contribute to the social and economic betterment of the province.

The department operated a number of employer information offices throughout the province to implement and supervise this program. Assessment and placement units were set up in its district offices so that clients could be referred to employers at the local level.

An initial $9 million was allocated to create 1,500 new jobs. This was supplemented in mid-year by an additional $2 million and the job target adjusted to 2,140 jobs.

Accomplishments

The Saskatchewan Employment Development Program was a considerable success. A total of 2,160 new jobs were created at a total cost of $10,812,137.

Forty-eight per cent of the jobs were created in the business sector, 18 per cent in the local-government sector, and 34 per cent in the non-profit organizations sector. Approximately 19 per cent of the positions created continued past the program funding period. In the business sector, 37 per cent of the positions were continued beyond the program funding period.

In addition to contributing over $1 million to wages, employers involved with the Employment Development Program spent $13,120,000 on other related costs, repesenting a contribution of $1.31 for every dollar contributed by the program.

Municipal Winter Works Program Delivery

Social Services staff also took responsibility for the delivery of the Municipal Winter Works Program on behalf of the Departments of Urban Affairs and Rural Development. Under Municipal Winter Works, a total of 1,186 jobs were created.

One hundred social assistance clients were also referred to job opportunities created under the New Careers Corporation administered by the Department of Parks and Renewable Resources.

Saskatchewan Skills Development Program

The basic objective of the government's reform of the welfare system was the development of productive alternatives to welfare. The development of the Saskatchewan Skills Development Program was an essential component of this reform.

In conjunction with the Department of Advanced Education and Manpower, the existing community college system was expanded to provide hundreds of new spaces in a wide range of classes offered through adult basic education and pre-employment skill development.

A total of 2,457 students enrolled in classes under this program. Of these, 72 were enrolled in grades 0-4; 1,380 in grades 5-10; 397 in grades 11-12; and 305 in pre-employment classes. Another 204 students were enrolled in other classes including career planning, employment readiness and refresher courses.

Services for Senior Citizens

Assessment and Placement Unit

The department's Assessment and Placement Unit was established during the year as the client referral source for the Saskatchewan Skills Development and Employment Development Programs. The unit consisted of a central office co-ordinator and 20 field staff in 14 district offices.

The unit maintained an inventory of the fully employable clients receiving social assistance. This offered an opportunity for all employable clients to be placed into available program streams.

The unit successfully referred 5,000 individuals.

The Family Income Plan

This program provided monthly supplements to low-income families with children under 18 years of age. Eligibility was based on annual family income and assets.

During March of 1985 supplements were provided to 7,767 low-income families, compared with 7,493 a year earlier.

Saskatchewan Income Plan

This program provided monthly supplementary payments to persons 65 years of age and over. Benefits depended upon the amount of the federal Guaranteed Income Supplement received. Eligibility was automatically assessed when a senior applied for the Guaranteed Income Supplement and no application was required in order to qualify for benefits under the Saskatchewan Income Plan.

Benefits were provided to 25,950 low-income seniors during March of 1985, compared with 20,914 the previous year.

Seniors' Bureau

The Saskatchewan Seniors' Bureau within the department is a focal point for all seniors seeking information about provincial government programs and services.

The Bureau helps to coordinate programs and services through its involvement on an inter-departmental committee which includes representation from a large number of government departments and agencies. It advises other departments on program and service issues as they affect seniors and on the needs of seniors generally.

The Bureau also consults with seniors' organizations throughout the province.

During the year under review the department initiated several projects on behalf of Saskatchewan seniors.

The Seniors' Bureau started the Seniors' Outreach Service, a collect-call line providing seniors with a focal point within the government for information about programs. The Seniors' Outreach Service averaged about 250 calls each month.

A multi-media campaign involving radio and television advertising to help make seniors more aware of the services provided by the Seniors' Bureau was carried out during the year.

The Bureau published a seniors directory of programs and services. This booklet was produced in co-operation with the Departments of Health and Justice and the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation. It was mailed to all seniors' households in the province.

The Seniors' Bureau offered eight management workshops for executives of seniors' activity centres. These were attended by 146 seniors representing 74 seniors activity centres across the province.

The Senior Citizens' Provincial Council was asked to study the programming in seniors' activity centres funded by the department. Public consultation on the results of the study will be completed during 1985-86.

Funding Programs

The department provides capital and operating funds to non-profit community organizations for the development of programs and facilities which involve seniors in recreational, educational and cultural activities. In 1984-85, the department funded over 400 seniors' activity centres operated by local boards.

The department provided funding to 20 local, specialized transportation projects for seniors.

Internal Support Services

Federal/Provincial Arrangements

The Federal/Provincial Arrangements Branch remained responsible for the policy and claiming requirements under the Canada Assistance Plan and the Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Agreement which allow for federal sharing of provincial social programs. The Branch also was responsible for charge-backs to the Department of Indian Affairs for treaty children-in-care and for emergency assistance provided to treaty Indians.

During 1984-85, this branch assumed the additional responsibility for claiming requirements necessary for federal sharing of provincial expenditures for 12-15 year olds charged under the *Young Offenders Act.* Eligible shareable services included custodial services and community-based services such as probation and alternative measures programs.

Other areas of responsibility included: liaison and coordination of activities undertaken with several federal departments and the social service departments of other provinces; administration of provincial responsibilities under the Excise Tax Act; preparation of briefing materials and correspondence on federal/provincial and interprovincial issues; participation in a federal/provincial working group; and liaison between other Government of Saskatchewan departments and the federal government in areas involving social issues.

During the year under review, the department received $148,363,308 in federal revenue. Of this, $9,579,559 represented revenue collected on behalf of other provincial government departments.

Strategic Planning and Communication

The Strategic Planning and Communication Branch provided overall strategic planning and policy-making support for the department, as well as project coordination and other developmental supports for the Deputy Minister and the Minister. Long-term planning, short-term issues management, policy review and development, and program design and evaluation were some of the responsibilities of this branch. These were coordinated in consultation with regional managers and other program divisions within the department. The branch was also responsible for the development of the department's communication policy and strategy.

Human Resources

The Human Resources Branch remained responsible for coordinating, managing and developing the human resources of the department in order that its programs and services could be most effectively delivered.

As part of this function, the branch provided personnel administration support in the form of recruitment and selection, classification, contract interpretation, employee benefits and labour relations. The branch also provided advice and direction to all divisions on such matters as manpower planning, affirmative action, performance appraisal, the management of human performance, and employee and career counselling.

In cooperation with the Public Service Commission, the Human Resources Branch administered a comprehensive educational leave program and tuition rebate program. The branch also coordinated and delivered an extensive in-service and supervisory training program.

Systems Development

The Systems Branch coordinated the development, operation, maintenance and enhancement of all automated data processing systems in the department. These systems supported the work of program staff in delivering the department's services, and provided statistical information to assist management with planning and decision-making.

This branch maintained the technical operations of the department's Client Index System which, in turn, maintained a central registry of all Social Services' clients and program involvements. During the year, the installation of on-line terminals gave 26 field locations access to this system and the information contained within it.

The main focus of activity during the year was the development of an electronic data processing system to assist in the delivery of financial benefits under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan. In following years, other programs will be given automated capabilities to improve the department's overall ability to manage its services and meet the needs of its clients.

Administrative Services

The Administrative Services Division provided a number of support services to the department's program branches.

The Comptroller's Unit of this division was responsible for processing revenue and expenditures, managing accounts receivable, developing and maintaining financial systems and providing expertise and consulting services to assist other branches of the department in financial management. The Budget Management Unit managed the department's expenditures and cashflow position and coordinated preparation of the annual budget. The Asset Management Unit was responsible for asset management, purchasing and space coordination. The Records and Forms Management Unit was responsible for the control of departmental forms and records.

Saskatchewan Social Services Gross Expenditures 1984-85

Program Services		
Administration		
Support Services	$ 7,898,783	
Program Administration	3,610,531	$11,509,314
Regional Operations		19,451,062
Family Services		1,597,029
Day Care		837,965
Child Care Institutions		4,352,671
Rehabilitation Services		2,247,719
Residences for the Mentally Handicapped		
North Park Centre	$ 3,741,221	
Valley View Centre	16,272,799	20,014,020
Grants to Local Authorities and Other Third Parties		
Grants to Day Care Centres and Family Day Care Homes		859,831
Grants for Community Services		5,733,537
Grants and Allowances for Services to the Handicapped		7,363,665
Payments to Local Social Services Units		1,448,338
Grants for Senior Citizens		1,435,059
Saskatchewan Employment Development Program		9,104,805
Payments to or on Behalf of Individuals		
Allowances for Day Care		9,824,650
Child Care		14,051,799
Grants for Employment Support Program		2,251,584
Income Security		
Public Assistance		
Saskatchewan Assistance Plan	$187,883,497	
Categorical Allowances	2,040	187,885,537
Family Income Plan		18,980,041
Saskatchewan Income Plan — Senior Citizens' Benefits		9,495,586
Total		**$328,444,212**

Saskatchewan